THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Sir. The raw silk production in the State of Karnataka has increased from a level of 6214 metric tonnes in 1990-91 to 7285 metric tonnes (provisional) in 1992-93. However, the establishment of large scale silk units in the State by the corporate sector may help in further increase of its raw silk production.

(b) The need for liberalisation of regulatory controls on sericulture industry has been emphasised to all major silk producing States including Karnataka.

Closure of NTC Mills in Bombay

1574. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has decided to close down nine of its mills in Bombay ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) how many workers are likely to be rendered jobless as a result of this closure ; and

(d) what is the reaction of the textile labourers and their unions in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) The future disposition of the mills of NTC in Bombay shall be decided by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special provisions) Act, 1985, after assesing their economic viability and in consultation with all parties concerned.

Constraints Faced by Textile Industry

1575. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the major constraints being faced by the textile industry ; and

(b) the steps taken to remove those constraints ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) There are at present no major constraints in the Textile Industry. However, requirement of funds for modernisation etc. has been taken up with the concerned authorities at the appropriate level.

Sick Textile Mills in the Country

1576. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of sick textile mills in the country at present ;

(b) the reasons for the sickness of these mills ;

(c) whether Government propose to merge the sick textile mills with profit making ones ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) As on 12-7-93, 247 mills were reported to be registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), as sick.

(b) The main reasons for sickness are competition from powerlooms in the decentralised sector, low productivity of both machine & labour, lack of modernisation and excess labour compliment, increase in cost of inputs, excess capacity etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of Central Scheme for Handloom Weavers

1577. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently reminded the State Governments to take urgent steps to implement the new Rs. 850 crores Central Schtme for handloom weavers ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?